cleared upto March 2004, road length of about 51,500 kms. has been completed up to March, 2004 and construction of balance length of about 49,800 kms. remains to be completed.

T&D losses

*240. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of transmission losses; and

(b) the measures taken to curtail losses during transmission and distribution in order to make the State Electricity Boards commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As per the information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) the average transmission and distribution losses in the country for the year 2002-03 are 32.54%.

(b) The measures taken to curtail losses during transmission and distribution in order to make the State Electricity Boards commercially viable are:

(i) Metering of 11 kv feeders and consumer metering;

(ii) Energy accounting and auditing;

(iii) Strengthening the provisions, relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system and providing incentive for reducing cash losses by SEBs/Utilities.

(v) Establishment of regulatory mechanism at Central as well as State levels.

(vi) Loan assistance by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC);

(vii) IT initiatives like consumer billing and customer care.

(viii) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS).